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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa from July 2013 to June 2014.

During the reporting period, the Centre continued to assist, upon request, Member States and intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote disarmament, peace and security.

In the light of the continued instability and conflict in some parts of Africa, in particular in Central Africa and the Sahel, compounded by the threat to peace, security and socioeconomic development posed by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, the Centre focused its work on providing assistance to States to combat illicit small arms and light weapons and to reform their security sectors. The Centre supported Member States in their implementation of international, regional and subregional instruments aimed at combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and provided training to civilian authorities, including national commissions on small arms and light weapons and defence and security forces. The Centre also partnered with civil society organizations to promote the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Centre provided support to Member States in meeting their obligations regarding the implementation of international treaties and other instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including bacteriological (biological) and toxin

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weapons, and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Such support was aimed at strengthening the capacity of national authorities in the region.

The Centre continued to provide substantive and technical support relating to disarmament issues to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in particular at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh ministerial meetings, held in Kigali in August 2013 and in N'Djamena in December 2013.

The Centre relies solely on voluntary contributions to implement its programmes. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operations and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/61, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the tangible achievements and impact of the assistance provided by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and welcomed its contribution to disarmament, peace and security on the continent.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. It covers the activities of the Centre for the period from July 2013 to June 2014. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre is contained in the annex.

II. Functioning and mandate of the Centre

3. The Centre was established in 1986 in Lomé, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. The Centre functions on the basis of existing resources within the Secretariat and of voluntary contributions that Member States and other donors may offer. It provides assistance, upon request, to Member States, the African Union and other relevant intergovernmental organizations in the promotion of disarmament, peace and security in Africa.

III. Activities of the Centre

4. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to implement its programme of work in the following main areas: peace and security; conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons; weapons of mass destruction; information and outreach; and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and other entities.

5. The Centre also worked in partnership with academic and research institutions and civil society organizations in the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities linked to disarmament, peace and security. To assist African States in tackling key challenges in the areas of security and disarmament, the Centre continued to place emphasis on activities linked to the prevention of the illicit traffic in and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons and to the reform of defence and security forces with the goals of reducing armed conflict and armed violence and developing effective and accountable security institutions. The Centre supported African Member States and intergovernmental organizations in those areas through capacity-building and training, technical assistance, research and outreach activities.

6. The Centre assisted African States in their efforts to fully implement the key requirements of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), including preparing the initial national report. It also helped to prepare voluntary national implementation and capacity-building plans to enhance the implementation of related instruments in the region.

A. Peace and security

7. The Centre, upon request, carried out activities to assist Member States, including States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in reforming their defence and security forces.

8. In response to the security situation in the Sahel, the Centre developed several projects contributing to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The projects take into account the discussions at technical-level consultative meetings on the security situation in the Sahel and the Maghreb held in Berlin, Dakar and Wilton Park, Steyning, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As part of its contribution to implementing the integrated strategy, the Centre worked closely with the national commissions on small arms and light weapons of Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger on aspects relating to conventional arms and ammunition management in those countries. Activities were conducted in close coordination with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

9. The Centre continued to provide substantive support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, informing its members of disarmament developments in the subregion and about the cooperation between the United Nations and the Committee in the context of peace and security in Central Africa. The Centre focused on promoting the national-level implementation of relevant international and regional disarmament instruments and on identifying the challenges and opportunities for their implementation in the subregion. It provided support to the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh ministerial meetings of the Committee, held in Kigali in August 2013 and in N'Djamena in December 2013. It presented updated reports on the disarmament situation in the subregion and on the progress in the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention) and provided substantive input to the regional discussions in preparation for the draft agenda of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Responding to a request, the Centre supported the members of the Committee in sharing national experiences on the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention and the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. It also initiated a project on the harmonization of national legislation with those instruments. The Centre also provided substantive support to the Committee's discussion on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

10. In addition, the Centre provided expertise on arms and ammunition stockpile management to experts from the Committee at a meeting on the implementation of the road map and development of an integrated counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of small arms strategy in Central Africa, which was organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, with the support of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, from 22 to 24 April 2014 in Bujumbura. The Centre promoted the application of the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, aimed at

assisting Member States to fulfil their commitments under the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

11. The Centre supported efforts to improve the security situation and respect for human rights in the lead-up to the presidential and national elections held in October and December 2013 in Madagascar. Cooperating with the Malagasy defence and security forces, the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Transition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme in Madagascar, the Centre focused on the linkage between security sector reform and small arms and light weapons control. It promoted international standards governing proportional use of firearms during electoral periods and shared its guide to maintaining law and order during electoral periods for security forces and services with the Malagasy security services.

B. Small arms and light weapons

12. The Centre supported African Member States in implementing international and regional instruments to combat the illicit trade and uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons by assisting in the development of regional and national action plans on small arms and strengthening the capacity of Governments and civil society organizations in the field of small arms control.

13. As an observer in the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, the Centre continued to work closely with the African Union Commission and provided substantive support to the Steering Committee in the implementation of the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the African Union Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Programme. It also supported the implementation of the relevant subregional instruments to combat illegal small arms and light weapons. The Centre provided substantive support to the Steering Committee with regard to the African Union-European Union project to fight against illicit firearms in Africa in the implementation of the second phase of the project.

14. Under a United Nations-European Union joint assistance programme on small arms implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the Centre supported the organization of subregional events to assist Member States in critical components of practical arms regulation measures. They included a workshop for States members of the Economic Community of West African States on implementing the International Tracing Instrument, held in Lomé in March 2014, advanced training for Southern and East African troop-contributing countries on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines within the framework of the Safer*Guard* knowledge resource management programme, held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in April 2014, and national follow-up training on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, held in Monrovia in May 2014 and also attended by personnel from the United Nations Mission in Liberia. The workshop on the International Tracing Instrument provided a platform for the authorities of West African States in charge of national tracing programmes to share their experiences and challenges with colleagues from other countries and United

Nations and international experts. As a confidence-building measure, representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana shared their national experiences in implementing the Instrument, such as national marking initiatives and with regard to stockpile management and ballistic services. The advanced training on the Guidelines provided participants with expert instruction in conventional ammunition stockpile management, focusing on the use of the Guidelines in field activities. Representatives of the United Nations Mine Action Service, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the Mines Advisory Group, a non-governmental organization, also participated and shared their experiences.

15. To support the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to control arms, the Centre, with financial support from the Government of Japan, developed a guidance manual on national standard operating procedures for physical security and stockpile management. The procedures were developed in line with the International Small Arms Control Standards, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, regional and subregional instruments and national legislation. In addition, the Centre hosted a training-of-trainers workshop in Grand-Bassam for 25 officials of the Ivorian national police, gendarmerie, armed forces and customs, water and forestry offices, using the guidance. Furthermore, the Centre developed training materials on legal and normative frameworks of arms control, marking, registration and tracing of small arms and light weapons, procedures for the storage of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, and destruction of surplus and obsolete small arms and light weapons.

16. The Centre continued to support the National Commission on Small Arms of Togo in developing and implementing a national action plan on small arms and light weapons control for the period 2012-2016. In cooperation with the National Commission, the Centre developed a programme to mark civilian-owned weapons, raise the awareness of the population regarding the importance of marking and advocate the marking of State-owned weapons in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument. This followed a survey by the National Commission of small arms ownership and the development of a national licensing programme.

17. To contribute to improving the security situation in Mali and the Sahel, the Centre, with financial support from Germany, assisted in making the National Commission for Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons of Mali operational once again. In addition, the Centre provided technical support to the National Commission in its efforts to develop a new five-year national action plan for the control of small arms. The plan was adopted in February 2014 during a national validation workshop. To implement it, the Centre will continue to assist Mali with the financial support of Germany and in close cooperation with MINUSMA, the United Nations Mine Action Service and international non-governmental organizations operating in the country. Mali also benefited from support through a seminar on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines organized for the national authorities and MINUSMA personnel.

18. The Centre supported Burkina Faso, the Niger and Sierra Leone through the procurement of weapon-marking machines and the organization of national workshops on international best practice standards on marking and initial training.

C. Other conventional arms issues

19. Following the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013, the Centre advocated the signature and ratification of the Treaty by African Member States. The Centre, together with civil society organizations, parliamentarians and other partners, focused on raising awareness of the Treaty among States and promoting its ratification by national parliaments. The Centre cooperated with the West African Action Network on Small Arms by providing technical input to training-of-trainers workshops for West African civil society organizations engaged in national Treaty advocacy activities. The events were held in Accra, Dakar and Lomé early in 2014. In addition, the Centre continued its cooperation with Parliamentarians for Global Action on advocacy in relation to the Treaty and provided substantive support to a joint session of the Pan-African Parliament and Parliamentarians for Global Action members in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2013. Jointly with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Centre also provided substantive support to the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons in holding a South-South parliamentary exchange and cooperation forum in Lomé in May 2014.

D. Weapons of mass destruction

20. The Centre supported Member States in their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. It undertook a project entitled "Enhancing the participation of African Member States in Security Council resolution 1540 (2004): towards the tenth anniversary" with the aim of strengthening the capacity of African States to implement the resolution, focusing on preparing initial national reports. The project received financial support from Norway and the United States of America. The Centre organized three regional workshops, for French-speaking, English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries, to facilitate the preparation and submission of initial reports pursuant to the resolution.

21. The workshop for French-speaking Member States was hosted by the Government of Gabon in Libreville in March 2014 and attended by representatives of the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mali and Mauritania. The Government of South Africa, in cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Institute for Security Studies, hosted the workshop for English-speaking States in Pretoria in April 2014, with the participation of representatives of the Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The workshop for Portuguese-speaking Member States was held in Lomé in June 2014, with the participation of representatives of Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe.

22. Back to back with the workshops, the Governments of Gabon and Togo invited the experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to country-specific round tables on the resolution in Libreville and Lomé. Government officials from various ministries and representatives of the security forces of the two countries discussed specific implementation activities. Gabon announced the development of a voluntary national implementation action plan, mapping out the country's priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of the resolution. Togo announced the establishment of an interdepartmental committee for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

23. As a part of the wider assistance programme to support the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, funded by the European Union, the Centre, in cooperation with the Implementation Support Unit, organized two national workshops on the implementation of the Convention, which were held in Benin and Burkina Faso in December 2013. The workshops, which brought together national stakeholders, national implementing authorities and regional and international experts, were aimed at strengthening national capacity to implement obligations under the Convention, notably regarding confidence-building measures, legislative and administrative measures, awareness-raising and the creation of a code of conduct on biosafety and biosecurity standards.

E. Information and outreach

24. The Centre developed a new communications strategy aimed at improving its ability to inform and interact with Member States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations and the public at large regarding its work and priorities. As part of those efforts, it organized meetings with international media in various countries to promote support for its activities. Such events were held in Bamako in February 2014, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Libreville in March 2014 and Pretoria in April 2014.

25. The Centre's electronic newsletter, "UNREC Focus", reached more than 5,000 global subscribers during the reporting period. New interactive features and information on the Centre's expertise and current projects were added to the website, available in English and French. From July 2013 to June 2014, it recorded more than 58,000 hits.

26. The Centre was able to expand its outreach activities in cooperation with and thanks to the in-kind support of regional and international non-governmental organizations, such as the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Institute for Security Studies, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the West African Network on Small Arms.

27. The Centre hosted two briefings for the diplomatic corps based in Lomé. The first, in June 2013, was a briefing on the Arms Trade Treaty and how the Centre could assist Member States in moving forward for the Treaty's swift ratification by African States. The second, in June 2014, provided an update on the discussions in the First Committee and on the Centre's current and planned activities.

IV. Operational situation of the Centre

A. Financial situation

28. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the Centre were received in the amount of $595,289. Information on the status of the trust fund from July 2013 to June 2014 is contained in the annex.

29. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Togo and the United States, in addition to the European Union, for their financial and in-kind contributions. The Secretary-General would also like to thank the Institute for Security Studies, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the National Commission on Small Arms of Côte d'Ivoire.

B. Staffing

30. The regular budget of the United Nations currently funds the posts of the Director, a Political Affairs Officer and two national support staff. Project staff continue to be funded through voluntary contributions. During the reporting period, the Centre intensified its cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers programme. The Secretary-General wishes to thank the Government of Finland for supporting the cost of an international United Nations Volunteer and the Government of the United States for supporting the cost of a national United Nations Volunteer through the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Secretary-General also would like to thank the Government of Germany for having launched the recruitment process for a junior professional officer, who is expected to join the Centre towards the end of 2014.

C. Capacity-building for United Nations staff members

31. The Centre took the opportunity of the presence of international experts to train its staff in Lomé and interested staff from United Nations departments, offices and agencies from the region on the International Tracing Instrument and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. Senior officials from the National Commission on Small Arms and the Ministry of Defence of Togo also participated in the training on the Guidelines.

V. Conclusion

32. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to support Member States in disarmament, security and peace initiatives and collaborated with several partners with a view to identifying synergies in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation objectives in Africa.

33. The Centre assisted Member States, upon request, in reforming their defence and security forces, in combating the illicit trade and uncontrolled spread of small

arms and light weapons and in implementing various weapons of mass destruction, disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. Furthermore, the Centre engaged in activities to promote the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and conducted outreach initiatives to raise awareness of the significance of disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

34. The considerable increase in requests for assistance from Member States and intergovernmental organizations illustrates the relevance of the Centre's work in the field of arms regulation, disarmament, non-proliferation and security in the region. Building on its expertise in the respective areas and past experience, the Centre will continue to develop and implement new projects and activities that meet the specific needs of Member States in the region.

35. In carrying out its programme and activities, the Centre worked with an increasing number of partners and strengthened its continental role by creating networks and partnerships at the pan-African and African subregional levels. The Centre also benefited from the effective partnerships that it has established and maintains with United Nations agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations, in addition to non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and civil society organizations. The ability of the Centre to coordinate with a wide range of actors and to draw on lessons learned has proved beneficial to its institutional growth.

36. The Centre stands ready to continue to support Member States in addressing disarmament and non-proliferation challenges in Africa. To enable the Centre to continue its operation and to fulfil its mandate effectively and comprehensively, the Secretary-General encourages all Member States and other donors to provide the Centre with the necessary financial contributions and in-kind support.

Annex

Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2013

(United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, as at 1 January 2013		**206 832**
Income		
Voluntary contributions		595 289[a]
Funds received under inter-organization arrangements	72 995[b]	
Interest income		4 633
Other/miscellaneous income		1 269[c]
Prior-year adjustment		416 539[d]
Total income and prior-year adjustment		**674 186**
Expenditure		368 023
Programme support cost		47 545
Total expenditure		**415 568**
Reserves and fund balances, as at 31 December 2013		**881 989[e]**

[a] During the reporting period, contributions totalling $595,289 were received from Australia ($50,000), Germany ($414,354), New Zealand ($19,975), the Netherlands ($80,000) and Togo ($30,960).

[b] Funds received from the United Nations Development Programme.

[c] Represents refund of expenditure from the prior period.

[d] Adjustment for the reduction of 2012 expenditure.

[e] Consists of reserves and fund balance as at 1 January 2013, plus income received in 2013, less expenditure incurred during the year, plus adjustment for the reduction of 2012 expenditure.